

# 1367.0 - State and Territory Statistical Indicators, 2011

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 29/11/2011



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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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## NEW GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION SETS THE STANDARD

From July 2011, the ABS began to replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**.

The new geographical structure is designed to meet the specific population and geospatial requirements of ABS statistical collections. It is also designed to be far more stable, allowing better comparability of data between geographic regions and over time.

The classification was first used for output in the publication, Land Account: Great Barrier Reef Region, Experimental Estimates, 2011 (cat. no. 4609.0.55.001) which was released in February 2011. Since then, the classification has also been used for output in the publication, Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0).

The 2011 Population Census will be the first Census to use different geographies for the collection and output of data. This has allowed the primary output geography, the ASGS Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) to be designed exclusively to meet the requirements for releasing Census data. Census data will also be available for the ASGC Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) which will assist in linking Census data between the old and new classification systems.

All ABS data collections will eventually migrate onto the ASGS. For more detailed information on when and how this will happen see the summary on the ABS Geography Portal.

## REGIONS OF THE ASGS

The ASGS incorporates all the regions used by the ABS to output data. They are divided into two broad categories:

1. **ABS structures**, those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS.
2. **Non-ABS structures**, those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS releases data.

### 1. ABS Structures

The ABS structures are a hierarchy of regions developed for the release of particular ABS statistics. They will be stable for 5 years between each Census, enabling far better comparison of data. Their components are described below:

**Mesh Blocks** are the smallest area geographical region. There are approximately 340,000 covering the whole of Australia. They broadly identify land use such as: residential, commercial, agriculture and parks etc. Residential and agricultural Mesh Blocks usually contain 30 to 60 households. Mesh Blocks are the building block for all the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data: total population and dwelling counts will be released at the Mesh Block level.

**Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s)** are the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released. They have

an average population of about 400. They are built from whole Mesh Blocks and there are approximately 55,000 covering the whole of Australia.

**Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s)** have an average population of about 10,000, with a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000. The SA2s are the regions for which the majority of ABS sub-state intercensal data, for example Estimated Resident Population and Health and Vital Statistics, will be released. There are about 2,200 SA2s, built from whole SA1s.

**Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s)** are a medium sized region with a population of approximately 30,000 to 130,000. They represent recognised regional areas and the functional areas of regional cities. They are built from whole SA2s.

**Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s)** will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics and are designed around labour markets. They are built from whole SA3s.

**Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs)** define the socio economic extent of each capital city for the output of survey data and economic indicators. They are built from whole SA4s.

**Significant Urban Areas (SUAs)** define individual urban areas or closely linked clusters of urban areas with populations over 10,000. They contain the urban area itself and any immediately associated semi-urban development. They are built from whole SA2s.

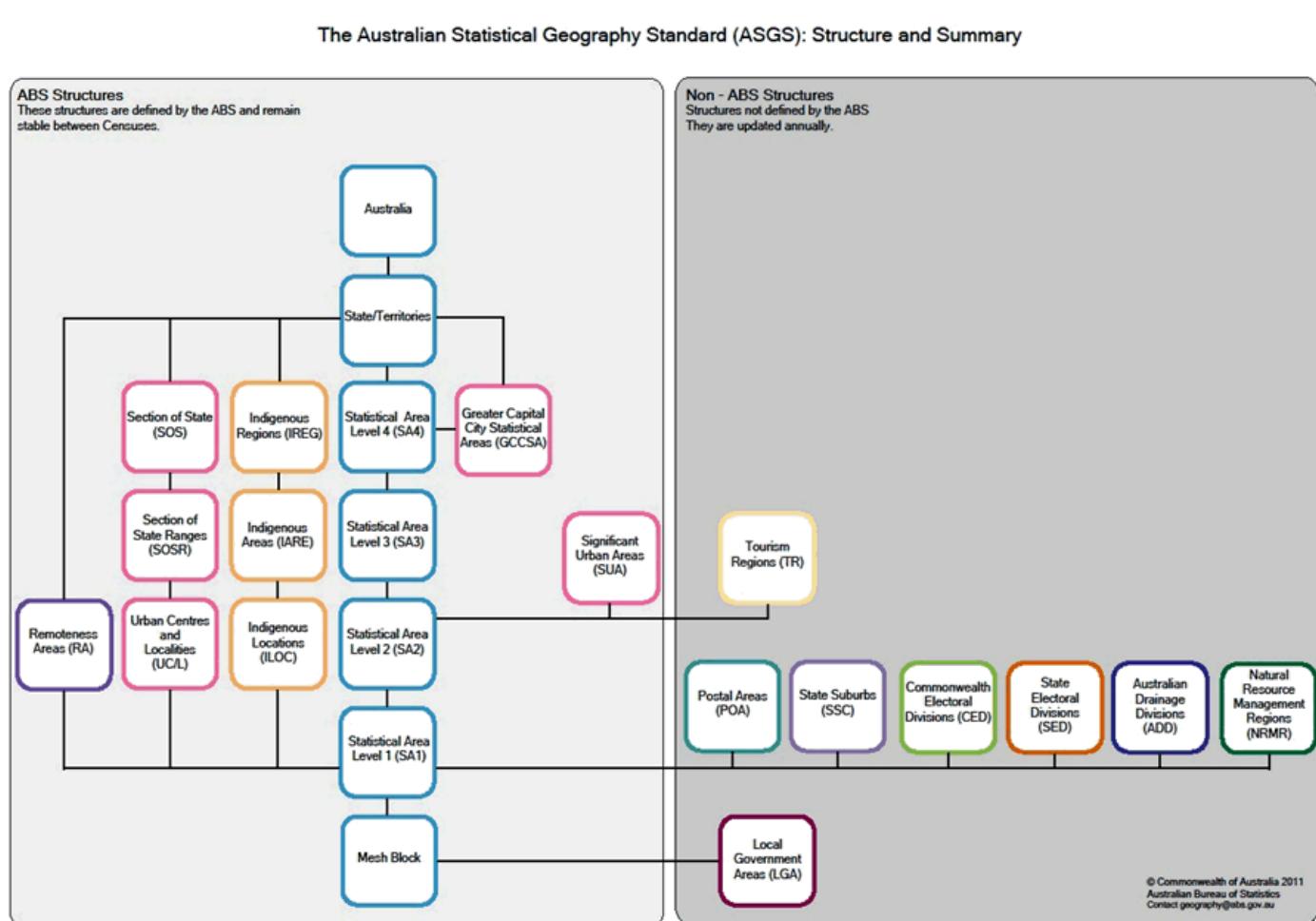
**Urban Centres/Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Areas** will be broadly comparable to previous Censuses but will be built from SA1s.

**Indigenous Regions, Areas and Localities** are designed for the presentation of Indigenous data. At the Indigenous Locality level, it is possible to identify data on particular Indigenous Communities.

## 2. Non-ABS Regions

Non-ABS structures will be approximated or built directly from Mesh Blocks or SA1s. They include such important regions as: Local Government Areas (LGAs), postal areas, state gazetted suburbs and electoral divisions. LGAs remain part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

The diagram below summarises the overall structure of the ASGS.



## **RELEASE OF THE ASGS**

The first ASGS publication, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) was released in December 2010 and contains the digital boundaries, labels and codes for the Mesh Blocks, the SA units and Greater Capital Cities SAs.

The second publication, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 2 - Indigenous Structure, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.002) was released in September 2011.

The Non-ABS Structures publication, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003) was released in July 2011 and contains the digital boundaries, labels and codes for the Non-ABS Structures listed above.

The fourth ASGS publication, **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Area, Urban Centres and Localities and Section of State** (cat. no. 1270.0.55.004) will be released in October 2012.

The fifth ASGS publication, **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure** (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005) will be released in December 2012.

The regions defined in the ABS Structures will not change until the next Census in 2016, although the Non-ABS Structures will be updated annually.

## **Further Information**

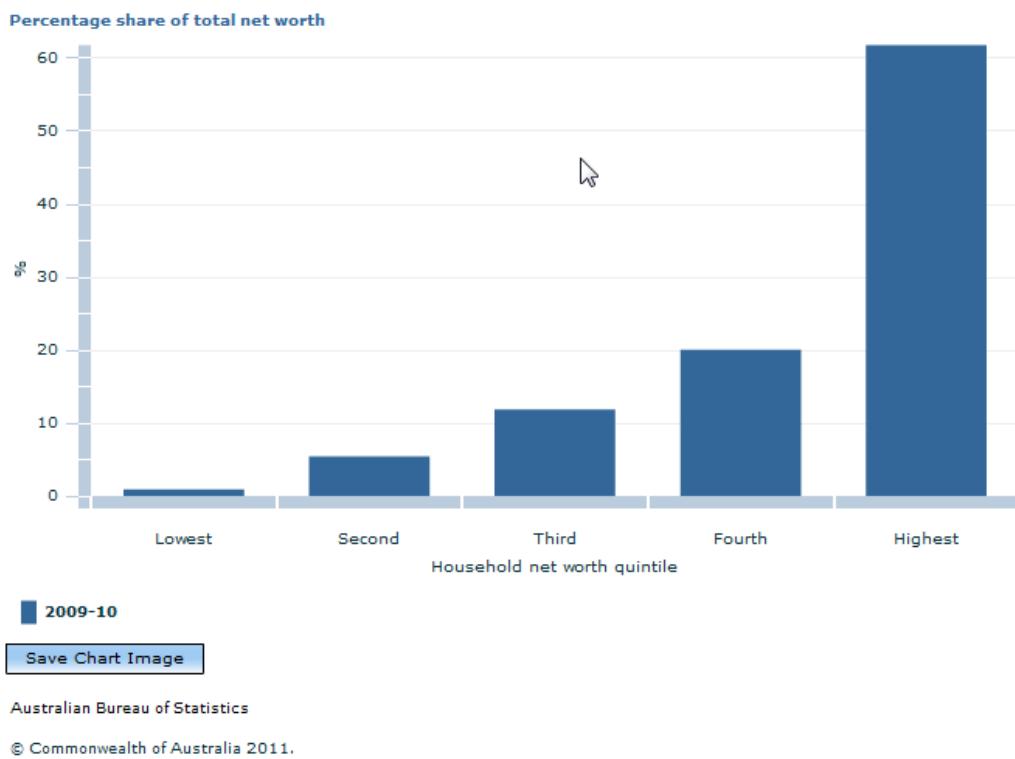
For more information please follow the link to the ABS Geography Portal. If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au).

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## **HOW MUCH IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD WORTH?**

In October, the ABS published estimates of the assets, liabilities, net worth and other characteristics of households and persons resident in private dwellings in Australia, compiled from the 2009-10 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). It includes estimates of the distribution of wealth (net worth) across the population.

The 2009-10 results found that the wealthiest 20% of households had increased their average net worth 15% since 2005-06 (CPI adjusted), while the poorest 20% of households saw only a 4% rise. These wealthy households had an average net worth of \$2.2 million per household, and accounted for around two-thirds of total household wealth. The poorest 20% of households had an average net worth of \$32,000 per household, which accounted for 1% of total household wealth (see graph below). The publication includes a feature article that examines the characteristics and economic circumstances of people living with low economic resources, including those with low wealth, low income, and both low wealth and low income.



**Source(s):** Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia (cat. no. 6554.0)

The average wealth of an Australian household in 2009-10 was \$720,000, up 14% (CPI adjusted) since 2005-06. There were differences in the average levels of wealth between the states and territories. Average net worth in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania were below the national average. Household wealth was more concentrated in metropolitan areas. The average net worth of households located in capital cities was \$772,000 as compared with \$629,000 in areas outside of capital cities.

Owner-occupied homes were the main asset held by Australians. Mortgages on them were the main liability, with over two-thirds of Australian households owning their own home either outright or with a mortgage. For households who owned their home outright (2.7 million households), the average value of the home was \$541,000. For those households with a mortgage on their home (3 million households), the average value of the home was \$521,000, and the average mortgage outstanding was \$188,000, giving a net home equity of \$333,000. One in five households owned property other than their own home, including holiday homes and rental properties.

Superannuation was the main financial asset held by households, with three-quarters of all households having some superannuation assets. For households with superannuation, the average value of their superannuation was \$154,000, but for half of these, the value was less than \$60,000.

More information can be found in Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6554.0).

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## INTRODUCTION OF THE 16TH SERIES OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

On 26 October 2011 the ABS released the first Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the basis of the 16th series in respect of the September quarter 2011.

The CPI was first compiled in 1960 with the series extending back to the September quarter 1948. The CPI was preceded by five series of retail price indexes compiled by the (then) Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics as far back as 1901. These series were titled the A, B, C, and D Series, and the Interim Retail Price Index respectively. The C Series Index, which began in 1921, was the principal retail price index in Australia prior to the introduction of the CPI in 1960.

The introduction of the CPI heralded a change in the approach to measuring retail price movements. Rather than compiling a set of discrete fixed-weighted indexes, the new approach was to produce a series of short-term fixed-weighted indexes that were to be regularly linked together to provide a single continuous measure of price change. This strategy was adopted to ensure that, at any point in time, the weighting patterns and item coverage of the CPI were relevant to user requirements and reflected contemporary economic conditions as well as possible. The CPI now comprises sixteen linked indexes. The CPI originally consisted of weights from 1948. Weights were updated in 1952 and subsequently in 1956, 1960, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2000, 2005 and 2011.

The 16th series CPI, consistent with the 13th, 14th and 15th series, has been designed as a general measure of price inflation

for the household sector as a whole. The CPI measures changes in the price of a fixed basket of goods and services acquired by consumers in metropolitan private households. It is updated at regular intervals, usually every six years, to ensure it continues to meet community needs. The most important objective of these reviews is to update the CPI weighting patterns, which represent the average Australian household expenditure on goods and services.

### Key changes in the 16th series CPI

The 16th series CPI includes a number of updates which were incorporated from the September quarter 2011. The All groups CPI was not revised as a result of the updates. The key changes for the 16th series CPI are:

- the CPI commodity classification (CPICC) used to categorise the goods and services in the CPI was updated to ensure it reflected contemporary wording and groupings. To enable greater international comparability, the classification was aligned with the United Nations Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP) where possible. There was considerable re-naming and some re-ordering of the items in the classification. The coverage of household expenditure remained largely the same as the 15th series CPI, with two exceptions:
  - the indirectly measured component of the 'Deposit and loan facilities' index was removed from the headline CPI with direct fees and charges remaining;
  - the 'Motor vehicles' expenditure class now incorporates new cars, transfer of used cars to the household sector (from business or government) and the service fee for the transfer of second hand cars. This is a change from the 15th series which only included the purchase of new cars.
- new household expenditure weights were derived from the 2009-10 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and other data sources;
- an additional number of analytical measures of inflation were produced:
  - an All groups CPI, seasonally adjusted, weighted average of eight capital cities;
  - expenditure class level price indexes seasonally adjusted, weighted average of eight capital cities;
  - an All groups CPI including deposit and loan facilities (indirect charges); and
  - an All groups CPI excluding food and energy.
- the analytical measures of trend inflation, the Trimmed mean and Weighted median, were revised and calculated using the standard ABS seasonal adjustment methodology.

General information about CPI is available at Topics @ a Glance - Inflation and Price Indexes.

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### FIND STATE AND TERRITORY INFORMATION MORE EASILY ON THE ABS WEBSITE

Eight new State and Territory Topics @ a Glance pages have now been released on the ABS website!

The new pages will help you locate information on state and territory-specific services and publications more easily.

To access the pages:

1. Go to the ABS Home page and access the Topics @ a Glance heading on the grey navigator bar



2. Select your state or territory located under the 'Regional' pillar.....

## Topics @ a Glance

All Topics
Economy
People
Environment & Energy
Industry
Regional
Quick Links
Population Clock
Statistics
Key Economic Indicators
Services we provide to small business
Understanding Statistics

Topics @ a Glance provides access to key statistics about a range of ABS topics.

**Please note:** We are currently releasing the new Topics @ a Glance project. This project will be replacing the existing completed some pages may still display the title 'Themes'. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Economy	People	Environment & Energy	Regional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Business Indicators</a></li> <li><a href="#">Balance of Payments</a></li> <li><a href="#">Business Demography</a></li> <li><a href="#">Finance</a></li> <li><a href="#">Foreign Investment and Foreign Debt</a></li> <li><a href="#">Foreign Trade</a></li> <li><a href="#">Government Finance Statistics</a></li> <li><a href="#">National Accounts</a></li> <li><a href="#">Inflation and Price Indexes</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</a></li> <li><a href="#">Aging</a></li> <li><a href="#">Census</a></li> <li><a href="#">Children and Youth</a></li> <li><a href="#">Crime and Justice</a></li> <li><a href="#">Culture</a></li> <li><a href="#">Demography</a></li> <li><a href="#">Disability and Carers</a></li> <li><a href="#">Education and Training</a></li> <li><a href="#">Family and Community Statistics</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gender</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Environment and Energy</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Regional Statistics</a></li> <li><a href="#">New South Wales</a></li> <li><a href="#">Victoria</a></li> <li><a href="#">Queensland</a></li> <li><a href="#">South Australia</a></li> <li><a href="#">Western Australia</a></li> <li><a href="#">Tasmania</a></li> <li><a href="#">Northern Territory</a></li> <li><a href="#">Australian Capital Territory</a></li> </ul>

There are four main headings, which are standard across the eight state and territory home pages, represent client interest areas:

- **Find [your state or territory] Statistics**
- **Services ABS provides**
- **Services for State (or Territory) Government**
- **Contact Us**

## Australian Bureau of Statistics

[Home](#) [First Visit?](#) [Statistics](#) [Services](#) [Census](#) [Topics @ a Glance](#) [Methods & Standards](#) [News & Media](#)

[ABS Home](#) > [Topics @ a Glance](#) > [New South Wales](#)

### Topics @ a Glance - States and Territories New South Wales

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People
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Regional
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Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital Territory

### What's new

- [State and Territory Statistical Indicators](#) (cat. no. 1367.0)
- [2011 is a Census year! - Census spotlight](#)
- [National Regional Profile](#)
- [ABS Geography portal - the new ASGS](#)

### Did you know...

In 2010, almost two-thirds (62.8%) of the NSW population aged 15-24 years were enrolled in a full-time or part-time course of study at an educational institution (59.1% for Australia)?

- [Find NSW Statistics](#): New South Wales releases and links to find state specific statistics.
- [Services ABS provides](#): An information and services directory for a variety of user needs.
- [Services for State Government](#): Statistical training, consultancy, advisory services and more.
- [Contact Us](#): For all general data enquiries, and Central and Regional Office locations.

The **What's new** section features important or recently released publications, information or events relevant at either the national, or state or territory level. Navigation between the state and territory pages is now much simpler, with all state and territory main pages accessible via the new left hand navigator.

For interest, the inclusion of a **Did you know** section offers a concise fact about the state or territory.

State and territory government clients, through the new **Services for State (or Territory) Government** page, now have a single entry point for the specific services available to them. Working examples have been provided in some areas to help illustrate the breadth and types of services the ABS offers.

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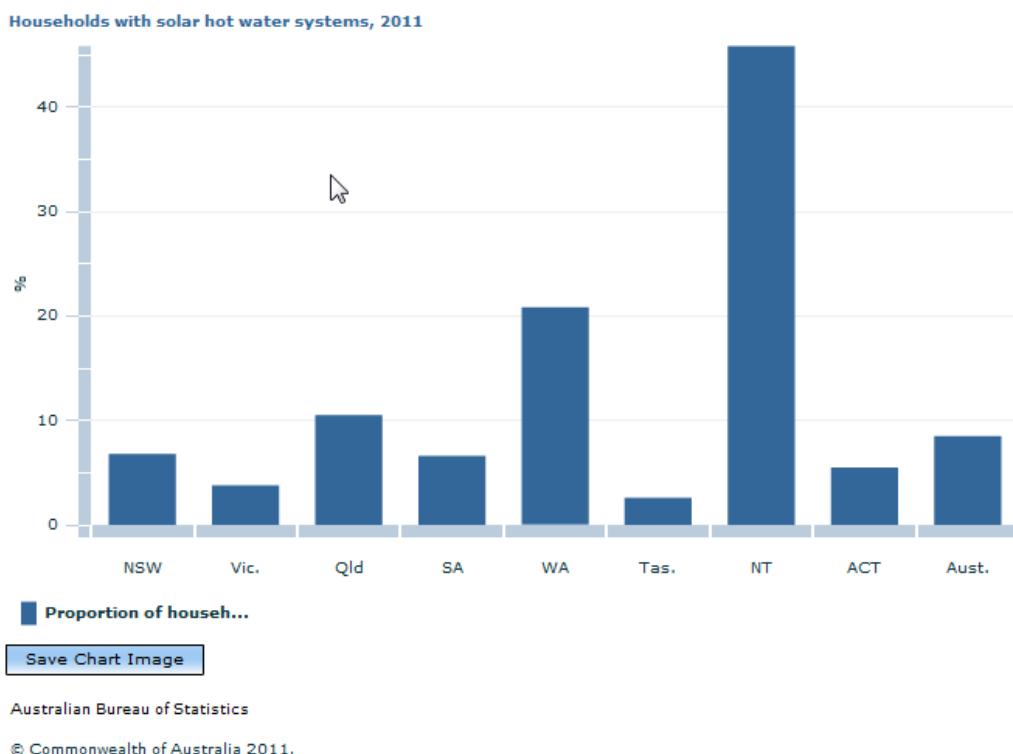
## AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLDS LOOKING TO THE STARS

In 2011, approximately 50% of Australian households considered energy star ratings when purchasing selected electrical appliances. In contrast, only one-third of households that purchased a heater or air conditioner considered energy star ratings.

The proportion of Australian households with a cooler in use (either a refrigerated air conditioner or an evaporative cooler) increased from 59% in 2005 to 73% in 2011. Tasmania has shown the largest increase in the use of coolers from 19% in 2005 to 44% in 2011.

Of all Australian households, 69% had some form of insulation. In the Australian Capital Territory, 81% of households had insulation compared with 44% of households in the Northern Territory. An estimated 70% of Australian households indicated that their main reason for installing insulation was to 'achieve comfort' although more than one in ten (11%) did so to save on energy bills.

In 2011, 52% of hot water systems in Australian households were electric while 36% were mains gas. Of all hot water systems, less than one tenth were solar powered (8%). Northern Territory had the highest proportion of households with solar hot water systems (46%) followed by Western Australia (21%).



Source(s): Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation (cat. no. 4602.0.55.001)

Further information about household energy use and conservation inside the dwelling and outdoors, can be found in Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation (cat. no. 4602.0.55.001). The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Energy Use and Conservation (EUC) Survey conducted throughout Australia in March 2011 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The aim of the Survey was to collect information on how households use and conserve energy. The publication was released on 24 October 2011.

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## WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL LEARNING DATABASE (ALLD)?

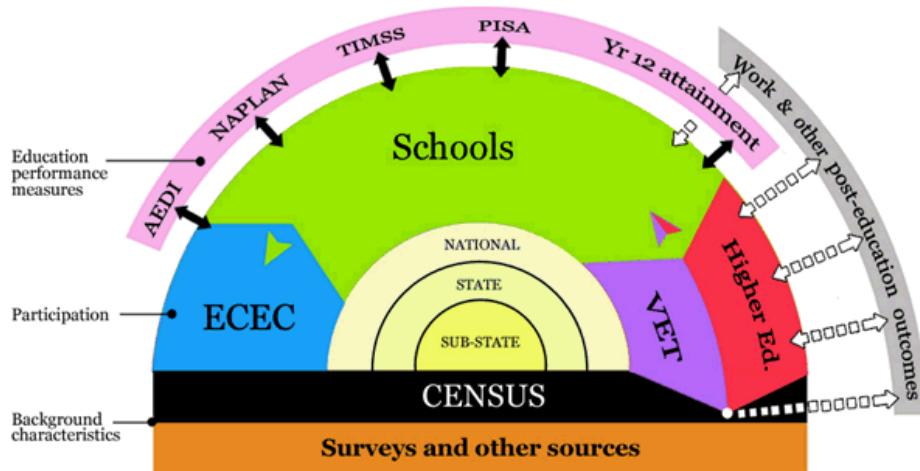
The ABS has developed a model of how existing educational statistical information could be structured into a student-centred longitudinal database, called the Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD). An ALLD would link data on the pathways and outcomes of Australian students from early childhood education to schooling, post-school education and potentially labour force outcomes. The model would bring together information on early childhood education, schooling, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher education. Other information could also be incorporated, such as childhood development information from the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), or the results of literacy and numeracy testing and academic results. All of this information could be stored in an enduring, linked statistical and research database.

Information derived from the ALLD would allow governments and researchers to develop a better understanding of the drivers and underlying factors affecting student progress and outcomes. It would facilitate improved measurement of participation in

early childhood education, school performance and social inclusion, and inform national agreement reporting through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and other monitoring processes. Currently, data collected in the early childhood, education and training sectors is fragmented and sector specific. While there is a good deal of information available on participation in education and training, there is only limited information on the educational pathways and outcomes for students. This is largely due to the data being collected from a variety of sources.

The model being proposed by the ABS is known as the Australian Longitudinal Learning Database, and is represented by the diagram below.

The major arc in the diagram represents how enrolment information from the different sectors would be linked to provide student pathways from early childhood education and school to VET and higher education. Enrolment information could be linked to statistical collections such as the Census (block below the arc) providing a foundation of core socio-demographic characteristics and eventual labour force outcomes. The first thin band above the enrolment arc shows a variety of supplementary and education performance information (such as AEDI, NAPLAN and Year 12 results) which could be integrated into the database. The other band above the arc represents the multiplicity of pathways among education, the labour force and other activities.



For more information on this project refer to the full text of the ALLD Concept Paper, or contact:

Jeff Carlton, ALLD Consultant, National Centre for Education & Training Statistics on (02) 6252 5430; email [jeff.carlton@abs.gov.au](mailto:jeff.carlton@abs.gov.au) or

Caitlin Szigetvari, ALLD Project Leader, National Centre for Education & Training Statistics on (02) 6252 7034; email [caitlin.szigetvari@abs.gov.au](mailto:caitlin.szigetvari@abs.gov.au).

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## YOUR NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE (NSS)



### Purpose of the NSS

In an increasingly complex and fast-moving world, Australia requires a contemporary national statistical system that can adapt and respond to emerging priorities. Official statistics are fundamental to good government, to the delivery of public services and to decision making in all sectors of society. Australia's information needs are growing as the world becomes more interconnected.

The National Statistical Service (NSS) is a community of government agencies, led by the ABS as Australia's national statistical organisation, building a rich statistical picture for a better informed Australia.

### NSS Objectives

The four key objectives of the NSS are:

**Values** - Governments and the community value and support high integrity information. Providing a world class official statistical service that retains the confidence and trust of the Australian society;

**Content** - Public information sources are used to provide a statistical picture of the economy, society and the environment. This includes optimising the use, for official statistical purposes, of data available within government administrative systems;

**Capability** - Producers and users are able to manage data, make it accessible and use it well;

**Statistical Infrastructure** - Statistical standards, policies and tools are shared to maximise the value of investment, reduce provider load and support integrated statistics.

## NSS Strategic Priorities

The ABS is working in collaboration with Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments and other sectors to progress the following strategic initiatives to enhance the NSS:

- supporting improvements to measures used in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) performance reporting;
- supporting governance and institutional arrangements to further statistical data integration of public information assets for statistical and research purposes; such as providing a safe and effective environment;
- the modernisation of Information Management infrastructure to establish an environment in which Australian governments and the community can easily find, access, and combine statistical information;
- identifying in a highly consultative way the essential statistical assets for Australia to protect and prioritise government investment in official statistics;
- Enabling statistical information to be integrated with location information.

As part of progressing the NSS the ABS will be hosting the third NatStats conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 12 - 14 March 2013. The theme for NatStats 2013 is "A better informed Australia: the role of statistics in building the nation". For more information about the conference, see: NatStats 2013.

Further information about the NSS can be found on the NSS website at [www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au) or by emailing [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au).

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR REGION?

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- Information Session: Estimated Resident Population under ASGS
- Estimated Resident Population: Local Government Survey consultation, Victoria
- 2011 Census Update
- Indigenous Statistics in Victoria: Population estimates
- ABS Stats Show: Spatially Enabling Data
- Rethinking Statistics pilot workshop
- ABS presentation to Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

### South Australia

- Statistical Leadership in South Australia
- The Integrated Design Strategy for Inner Adelaide
- Statistical Capability Building at the SA Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC)

### Western Australia

- WA State Supplementary Survey (SSS): 2011 Community Preparedness for Emergencies

### Tasmania

- Tasmanian Spatial Information Council Spatial Innovations Showcase
- Nation's First Cost of Living Strategy Released
- Kids Come First
- ABS outposting to the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet



### VICTORIA

#### Information Session: Estimated Resident Population under ASGS

In December 2010, the ABS released the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which is gradually replacing the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC). The ASGS defines more stable, consistent and meaningful units than the ASGC and will become the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical dimension of ABS statistics.

The ASGS will have a substantial impact upon sub-state population estimates, as estimates will be prepared and released based on an entirely new geographic classification. The first set of population estimates under the ASGS will be released in July 2012, along with ASGC-based estimates. However, from 2013, estimates will only be prepared based on the new ASGS.

Because it is such a significant change, the ABS will be presenting an information session in February 2012 (date to be confirmed) to assist in clarifying plans for the preparation and release of these estimates, and you are invited to attend. The session will focus on how the population estimates are currently prepared and released and how this will change when released under the new geography in future. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

The session will be held in February 2012, date to be confirmed.

To register your interest, please send an email with 'ERP under ASGS' to [victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au). If you have any questions, or wish to nominate 'questions on notice', don't hesitate to include these when you register your

interest.

For further information, please contact Gina Slade on 03 9615 7027 or [gina.slade@abs.gov.au](mailto:gina.slade@abs.gov.au).

For further information on the new geography, see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) released on 26 August 2011. This paper explains what sub-state population estimates will be produced in future, and how and when they will be released.

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## **Estimated Resident Population: Local Government Survey consultation, Victoria**

The Victorian Office of the ABS is currently undertaking its annual consultation with Councils across Victoria to understand changes to the size and composition of populations within LGAs, from July 2010 to June 2011. The ABS has sent a questionnaire to each of the Councils requesting information about population change within their LGA and the events or developments impacting on the population. Most Councils have now responded to the questionnaire. The ABS has also begun meeting with selected Councils to assist us to build a more accurate picture of the population change that has taken place in these areas.

The information gathered from Councils is used in conjunction with other information to assist with validating the modelled estimates for the Estimated Resident Population (ERP). The 2011 ERP for sub-state areas as at 30 June 2011 will be released in Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0) on March 30, 2012. These estimates will be superseded by preliminary rebased estimates, based on information from the 2011 Census, in July 2012. Final rebased estimates will be available in August 2013.

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## **2011 Census Update**

Field enumeration in Victoria has now concluded, with the last Post Collection Follow up activity completed in early September 2011. Field staff debriefings have been conducted with valuable information and feedback gained, which will inform evaluation reporting.

While Census field operations wrap up, the Data Processing Centre (DPC) has moved into full swing and is at capacity with 750 staff. The DPC will receive about 9 million eCensus and paper forms in total. The function of the DPC is to reconcile, scan and load the Census forms into a database for processing. After processing the data and quality assuring its content, the DPC will produce a detailed file of dwelling and personal characteristics from which the final output file will be produced. As at 28 October 2011, approximately 6.2 million forms have been received at the DPC. This represents approximately 68% of all forms expected across Australia. Of the forms received, 2.8 million were submitted via eCensus; 800,000 as mail back; and 2.7 million forms have been returned via Census collectors.

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## **Indigenous Statistics in Victoria: Population estimates**

The ABS is an active participant in the Victorian Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan (OBIP), an agreement between the Commonwealth and the Victorian Government to close the gap in key outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The ABS Victorian Regional Director, Lane Masterton, is a member of the OBIP Governance Committee and also chair of one of its sub-committees, the Data Reform Group. This group aims to address the issues of data gaps and data quality in relation to information about Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The ABS has released an information paper (cat. no. 3101.0.55.001) on Rebasing Population Estimates, Australia 2011 using data from Census 2011 and the subsequent Census Post-Enumeration Survey (PES). The re-based estimates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, as at 30 June 2011, will be released in 2013.

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## **ABS Stats Show: Spatially Enabling Data**

The ABS Stats Show on Spatially Enabling Data was held on Thursday, 13th October 2011, at the Treasury Theatre, and was attended by over 200 Victorian State Government staff. Keynote Speakers were Dr Kate Liley, Queensland Department of Communities, who presented on the use of spatial data in human services planning in Queensland; Duncan Brooks, Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment who presented on what the Department's spatially enabling data applications; and Dr Jill Charker, ABS who provided an overview of how the ABS can contribute to spatially enabling data through the development of a Statistical Spatial Framework.

Further information and copies of the presentations can be found on the National Statistical Services Website.

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## Rethinking Statistics pilot workshop

On the 16th of September, policy makers from the Victorian State Government and members from the Victorian office from the ABS came together to participate in a pilot program titled **Rethinking Statistics - Putting the policy into statistics and the statistics into policy.**

This one day course covered the changing role of statistics and the importance of developing the relationship between data users and producers to improve evidence based policy decision making. By rethinking statistics participants aim to place policy consideration into statistical process and vice versa. This workshop is based on an OECD program developed in part by Jon Hall, an ABS employee who recently spent 6 years leading the OECD's Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, building on the groundbreaking 'Measuring Australia's Progress' publication. Jon was joined by Marie Apostolou (Statistical Coordination Director - National Statistical Services Leadership Branch) in presenting the highly engaging and interactive course, which received very positive feedback from participants. Discussions are underway to determine the viability of expanding the roll-out of the course nationally in 2012.

For more information, please contact Marie Apostolou (03) 9615 7500 or Paul Romanis (03) 9615 7362.

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## ABS presentation to Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

The Parliament of Victoria: Family and Community Development Committee invited ABS to give evidence at a public hearing relating to the Inquiry into Opportunities for Participation of Victorian Seniors. Lane Masterton, Regional Director, Victoria represented the ABS at a session on 18th October 2011. The ABS presentation highlighted the economic significance of older Victorians in the paid workforce and the voluntary sector. Barriers to labour force participation as well as social inclusion and community participation were also noted.

The ABS presentation drew extensively on information from its monthly labour force surveys, Australian Social Trends and recently released General Social Survey and Household Expenditure Surveys. Additional information was provided to the Committee on ABS population projections and census outputs for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community. The presentation was well received and generated useful discussion.

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Statistical Leadership in South Australia

The growing emphasis in South Australian government on evidenced based policy making, and the measurement of progress against South Australia's Strategic Plan targets, depends upon the quality of statistical data available to government agencies. The Government Agencies Statistical Committee (GASC) has an important role in assisting South Australian government agencies to use the best possible statistical evidence.

GASC is comprised of senior representatives from relevant state government agencies and the ABS and is chaired by a representative from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Chris McGowan is the current chair of GASC and SA Government's representative on the national State Statistical Forum (SSF). GASC's functions include sharing and disseminating statistical information within and between agencies, developing agreed positions on statistical issues and selecting strategic government projects for collaborative work as part of the ABS State Consultancy Fund (SCF).

As part of the ABS SA Office's work with GASC and SSF, we will be running a series of seminars in 2012 related to the SSF priorities. The first, to be held in late February, will be on 'Spatially Enabling Data' and will include speakers from state government, academia and the ABS. To register your interest and receive further details, please email [sa.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:sa.statistics@abs.gov.au).

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## The Integrated Design Strategy for Inner Adelaide

Each year, the SA Office of the ABS allocates resources for State Government use on appropriate statistical projects via the State Consultancy Fund (SCF). As part of the most recent SCF process, the ABS is working with the Integrated Design Strategy (IDS) for Inner Adelaide team. The IDS is a partnership between the Australian Government, the South Australian Government and the eight inner Adelaide metropolitan councils. It aims to develop a long-term urban design vision for Adelaide that will integrate urban planning and infrastructure management across the inner metropolitan councils to deliver a more sustainable, productive and liveable inner Adelaide. For further information about the IDS, visit [www.5000plus.net.au](http://www.5000plus.net.au).

The ABS has assisted IDS with determining a practical customised geography for the inner Adelaide area that can be

populated with existing data, along with an assessment of the suitability and transferability of indicators published in the national 2010 State of Australian Cities report to the IDS project. The indicators were assessed in terms of their accessibility, time series capability, capacity to provide data for some form of 'Adelaide' geography, plus their apparent quality and transparency. The next steps in the project will include finalising the indicators in line with the IDS guiding principles, exploring the use of a time-series monitoring approach and considering alternatives such as the design of new indicators that directly answer specific urban-design policy questions, as opposed to the use of standard socio-economic measures.

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### **Statistical Capability Building at the SA Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC)**

In 2011, SA STSS has been working with the LGGC to assist with refining their local government finance collection, providing training to staff in essential accounting concepts, optimal processing of council returns and data interpretation, and helping them to plan ahead to meet changing user requirements. The format of the training delivery, which has included tutorials, workshops and group discussions, has been able to cater for participants with varying levels of expertise in financial data. As a result of this work, the LGGC will be able to more effectively manage and deliver its collection.

Various stakeholders from SA State Government, the Local Government Association and the ABS Local Government Statistics Unit (Qld Office) have participated in the training modules as presenters, observers or trainees, providing an opportunity to share ideas and expectations and highlighting the importance of the collection as a source of small-area economic data. This collaboration between the ABS and the LGGC is an example of the National Statistical Service at work; people sharing ideas about data quality and information enhancement, building statistical literacy and capability and bringing useful information into the public domain.

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### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **WA State Supplementary Survey (SSS): 2011 Community Preparedness for Emergencies**

The need for information on community preparedness for emergencies has been highlighted through local and world events.

The 2011 Community Preparedness for Emergencies survey (enumerated in October) builds on the 2007 survey and aims to better assess the level of emergency preparedness in Western Australia. Survey data will assist the WA State Government to determine the extent to which further effort and resources should be directed toward community resilience building initiatives and provide for future jurisdictional comparison.

The publication will present information on the level of preparedness of the WA community for a large scale emergency such as a bushfire, flood, cyclone, earthquake or other hazardous event. Data items include household possession or availability of basic necessities such as food, water and medicine; emergency supplies such as torches; communications technology such as battery operated AM/FM radios, telephones and the internet; persons with first aid training; household emergency planning; smoke alarms; transport for evacuation; important documents (for post-emergency continuity) and; household insurance.

Results are due for release in May 2012.

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### **TASMANIA**

#### **Tasmanian Spatial Information Council Spatial Innovations Showcase**



The critical role of spatial information in evidence-based planning and decision-making was the key message for delegates at Tasmania's inaugural Spatial Innovation Showcase in October. The event drew together delegates, speakers and exhibitors from all levels of government, business enterprises, professional organisations and academia.

The ABS was a keen supporter of the event. Tasmanian Regional Director Jacky Hodges gave a presentation on ABS developments in spatial data, highlighting the role of the ABS to work with state, territory and Commonwealth agencies to support improved accessibility and usability of key administrative and survey data sets.

Ms Hodges showcased the ABS Pilot Land Account for the Great Barrier Reef as an example of how the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) enables us to bring social, economic and environmental data from different agencies together in powerful new ways, using spatial location information.

The showcase was an initiative of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC [www.tassic.org.au](http://www.tassic.org.au)) in collaboration with Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment and the Tasmanian Region of the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute.

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### **Nation's First Cost of Living Strategy Released**

Cost of Living has been recognised as a major issue for Tasmania, confirmed by the findings of the recent Tasmania *Together* 10 Year Review. In the 2010-11 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government funded the development of A Cost of Living Strategy for Tasmania to help all levels of government and the community sector better understand the pressures facing Tasmanian households. The Strategy, released on 25 October 2011, is the first of its kind in Australia and provides a comprehensive study into the range of issues that are impacting on the most vulnerable in our community.

Key elements of the Strategy include:

1. A framework to explain why cost of living is an issue of importance.
2. A focus on households and places so we can understand who is most at risk and why.
3. Key areas for strategic intervention and principles to guide action.
4. Actions within the strategic areas.
5. A focus on leadership and new forms of planning and service delivery.

An ABS officer was outposted to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Social Inclusion Unit to provide statistical support to the development of the Tasmanian Cost of Living Strategy.

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### **Kids Come First**

Tasmania's Kids Come First project provides an outcomes-based framework detailing health, wellbeing, learning and other important aspects for children and young people in Tasmania. This project, which is now attracting wider attention, was featured in the September edition of NSS News.

### **ABS outposting to the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet**

The ABS is currently working with the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet to investigate how the ABS can collaborate most effectively with the Tasmanian Government to support their data needs for policy setting, evaluation and improved service delivery. This work is being facilitated by an outposted ABS officer, Cassy Short.

The outposting will help identify the issues, review what is happening in individual agencies, and look for synergies across government to improve efficiency and effectiveness of information management, particularly for programs associated with Commonwealth funding based on proven performance or agreed outcomes.

This project will also identify important state and national datasets which agencies rely on, which will feed into the SSF project on Essential Statistics for Australia. For more information contact [cassy.short@abs.gov.au](mailto:cassy.short@abs.gov.au).

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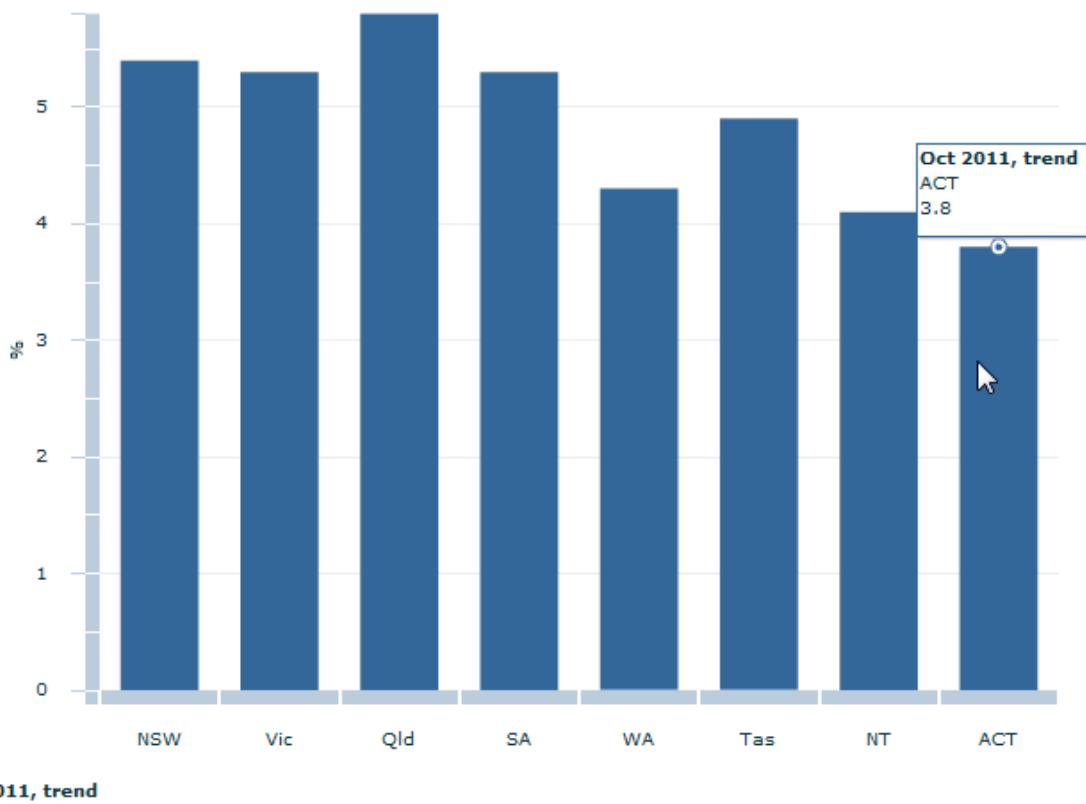
# 1367.0 - State and Territory Statistical Indicators, 2011

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 29/11/2011



## STATE AND TERRITORY COMPARISONS

State & Territory comparisons



Oct 2011, trend

Select a different indicator

Unemployment rate | ▾

Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

© Commonwealth of Australia 2011.

Source(s): Various ABS publications

## HOW DOES YOUR STATE OR TERRITORY COMPARE?

Click on the dialogue box above under 'Select a different indicator' and choose from a selection of 7 different indicators.

All of the indicators are available in the publication State and Territory Statistical Indicators (cat. no. 1367.0), and are updated as new ABS data becomes available.

Indicator	Descriptor	Time period(a)	Highest		Lowest	
			State	Value	State	Value
Unemployment rate	Trend	Oct 2011 (M)	Qld	5.8%	ACT	3.8%
Average weekly earnings	Full-time adult ordinary time, original	Aug 2011 (Q)	WA	\$1 536.40	Tas	\$1 164.70
Building approvals	No. of dwelling units approved, trend	Sep 2011 (%M/(M-12))	ACT	36.7%	Tas	-30.3%
State final demand	Seasonally adjusted	Jun 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	WA	6.6%	NT	-3.5%
Retail turnover	Current prices, seasonally adjusted	Sep 2011 (%M/(M-12))	WA	8.0%	SA	-0.1%
ERP growth	Persons, original(b)	Mar 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	WA	2.2%	NT	0.4%
CPI	Capital city, all groups	Sep 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	Adelaide	4.0%	Perth, Darwin	2.8%

(a) M = Monthly release, Q = Quarterly release.

(b) preliminary.

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## RECENT AND UPCOMING RELEASES

### RECENT RELEASES

29/11/11 Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (cat. no. 4610.0.55.008)

Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) refers to the gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation. This release builds on the time series presented previously and contains data cubes presenting 2009-10 GVIAP estimates for Australia, the States and Territories and the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as Natural Resource Management (NRM) area estimates for 2000-01 to 2009-10.

14/11/11 Analytical Living Costs Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types (cat. no. 6463.0)

This publication presents analytical living cost indexes for selected Australian household types. These price indexes are designed specifically to measure the impact of changes in prices on the out-of-pocket living costs experienced by four household types: Employee households; Age pensioner households; Other government transfer recipient households; Self-funded retiree households.

10/11/11 Life Tables - Australia and States and Territories 2008-10 (cat. no. 3302.0.55.001 to 3302.8.55.001)

This product contains life tables for males and females resident in every State and Territory of Australia, for the reference period. A life table is a statistical model used to represent mortality of a population. In its simplest form, a life table is generated from age-specific death rates and the resulting values are used to measure mortality, survivorship and life expectancy.

04/11/11 National Regional Profile, 2006 to 2010 (cat. no. 1379.0.55.001)

The National Regional Profile (NRP) presents, for all Australia, a range of data for various types of small regions. Data are available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas and other larger geographies.

The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data are presented as a five year time series, where available. These data are organised under the broad topics of Economy, Population/People, Industry, and Environment/Energy.

20/10/11 Information Paper: A Future Australian Transport Satellite Account: ABS Views, 2011 (cat. no. 5269.0.55.001)

The purpose of this paper is to outline ABS views on what a future Australian Transport Satellite Account (TrSA) might look like and to seek user feedback on these views. It provides background to ABS research on the topic, explains the concept of a satellite account, and describes the expected benefits resulting from the availability of such an account. A theoretical framework is presented, followed by ABS views on the scope that may be practical to implement in the short to medium term, given data sources, measurement difficulties and resource constraints.

20/10/11 Caring in the Community, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4436.0)

This publication provides data (from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers) on carers who provide ongoing informal assistance to older people and/or people with a disability. It includes characteristic data on carers and non-carers, with a particular focus on primary carers and the people they provide assistance to, as well as information on the effects of caring on primary carers.

14/10/11 Information Paper: Upcoming changes to the Australian System of National Accounts, 2010-11 (cat. no. 5204.0.55.007)

This information paper describes changes being introduced to the 2010-11 issue of 'Australian System of National Accounts' (cat. no. 5204.0) to be released on Friday 28th October 2011.

The compilation of the annual National Accounts in 2011 is a full historical revision cycle, where the benchmarks are revised through the time series for the purposes of putting through revisions from source data such as Australian Industry data, incorporation of source data such as Household Expenditure Survey 2003-04 and 2009-10, Retail Industry Survey 2005-06 and improvements to compilation. In addition, this paper will describe methodological changes to productivity data and impacts.

06/10/11 Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators (cat. no. 1370.0.55.001)

Measures of Australia's Progress is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. MAP provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence in answer to this question. Australians can use this evidence to form their own view of how our country is progressing.

The range of key statistical measures that MAP presents demonstrate change. They are grouped under three broad headings: the society, the economy and the environment.

12/09/11 Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas: Getting a Handle on Individual Diversity Within Areas, Sep 2011 (cat. no. 1351.0.55.036)

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) summarise the socio-economic conditions of an area using relevant information from the Census. The SEIFA indexes are widely used measures of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage at the Census Collector District level.

Using 2006 Census data, this paper explores individual level diversity within areas by constructing and analysing two person-based socio-economic indexes: one of relative disadvantage and the other of relative advantage and disadvantage.

## FUTURE RELEASES

01/12/11 **Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for Developing Estimates for Regional Internal Migration** (cat. no. 3405.0.55.001)

This paper provides an overview of a new demographic data series to be prepared by ABS, a series of regional internal migration estimates. The paper summarises the method and data sources, and provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the proposed data series.

15/12/11 **Household Use of Information Technology, Australia** (cat. no. 8146.0)

This release presents estimates on household and personal use of information technology in Australia. The data presented includes: access to internet, location of access, type of internet connection and purpose of using the internet. The data are presented by various demographic and geographic splits.

19/12/11 **Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview** (cat. no. 4172.0)

Provides a statistical overview of culture in Australia. Contains information on a range of topics including employment in culture, time spent on cultural activities, attendances at cultural venues and events, expenditure on culture, and imports and exports of cultural goods and services. Also provides profiles of the cultural sectors, grouped according to the Australian Culture and Leisure Industry Classification.



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Do you want to provide us with some feedback? Please contact your local ABS Office:



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## **OTHER FUTURE STATISTICAL RELEASES**

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## **THANKS**

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## **TRAINING AND SEMINARS**

### **INFORMATION SESSION: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION UNDER THE ASGS**

In December 2010, the ABS released the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which is gradually replacing the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC). The ASGS defines more stable, consistent and meaningful units than the ASGC and will become the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical dimension of ABS statistics.

The ASGS will have a substantial impact upon sub-state population estimates, as estimates will be prepared and released based on an entirely new geographic classification. The first set of population estimates under the ASGS will be released in July 2012, along with ASGC-based estimates. However, from 2013, estimates will only be prepared based on the new ASGS.

Because it is such a significant change, the ABS will present information sessions in all States and Territories over the next few months (dates to be confirmed) to assist in clarifying plans for the preparation and release of these estimates, and you are invited to attend. The sessions will focus on how the population estimates are currently prepared and released and how this will change when released under the new geography in future. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

The session will be held on the following dates in your region (dates to be confirmed, and some already held):

<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Month</b>
NT	November 2011
WA	November 2011
NSW	November 2011
Queensland	January 2012
Tasmania	February 2012
Victoria	February 2012
ACT	February 2012
SA	February 2012

To find out more information, or to register your interest, please telephone the ABS Training Contact in your State or Territory.

For further information on the new geography, see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) released on 26 August 2011. This paper explains what sub-state population estimates will be produced in future, and how and when they will be released.

## **TRAINING**

The ABS provides training on a large range of topics to develop skills for high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis. Some examples include:

- Running Your Own Survey
- Principles of Questionnaire Design
- Time Series Made Simple
- Understanding Demographic Data
- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple
- ABS Datacubes in SuperTABLE

The full suite of training and learning opportunities are advertised on the ABS website and can be accessed from the ABS Training Pages on the ABS Website.

Additional sessions may be scheduled according to demand. If your preferred course is not currently listed for your State or Territory, please email [training@abs.gov.au](mailto:training@abs.gov.au) with your contact details and the course name to register your interest.

If your training requirements are not met in the list of courses, please contact the ABS Training Contact in your State or Territory.

## **SEMINARS**

From time to time the ABS offers seminars and information sessions to help you make the best use of ABS information. As details of new sessions become available, these will also be advertised in this newsletter.

Details of ABS conferences, seminars and events are advertised on the following page of the ABS website: ABS Conferences, Seminars and Events.

In addition to ABS activities, the National Statistical Service (NSS) also runs a number of seminars each year. These are advertised on the following page: Upcoming NSS Seminars.

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